

Analysing IATI data to understand 2022 budgets and spending

Users of IATI data commonly need information on the resources that are projected to be spent in the future. This information is used to enable actors in the development cooperation space to better plan and coordinate. Information is also needed on the resources that have been spent; comparing projections to spending enables users to assess whether organisations are delivering as planned. The availability of this up-to-date data in IATI enables data users to conduct this analysis. The purpose of this article is to showcase the kind of analysis that can be achieved using IATI's [Country Development Finance Data \(CDFD\)](#) tool.

IATI's CDFD tool allows users to download simple, Excel-formatted IATI data on commitments, disbursements, and expenditures, as well as forward-looking budgets, presented simply by country and region and designed to enable easy analysis.

By making available timely and comprehensive data on resource flows, this tool is ensuring that a standard set of essential data is available in a user-friendly and familiar Excel format. In this way it can be directly accessed by countries looking to fill data gaps at the country-level and provide critical information needed to plan, coordinate, and evaluate allocation needs down to the sector-level.

The following article provides an overview of the budget and spending data that is published to IATI and which can be accessed using IATI's CDFD tool. It presents how users can assess and compare projected resources to be spent in 2022 (budgets) versus the actual spending, using data from the end of the third quarter of 2022.

Before going into the analysis, the first two sections provide key information around the methodology for determining what budget and spend data actually are, and how these resource flows are actually defined in the IATI Standard. (Reference links to CDFD guidance materials and instructional videos are also provided at the end of the article)

What is budget data and how is it useful?

A '[budget](#)' is reported to IATI in periods (with a start and end date) at the activity level. The purpose for publishing budget data is to provide predictability for recipient planning on an annual basis. In IATI, budgets are the value of the activity's budget for each financial quarter or year over the lifetime of the activity. In CDFD, budgets are aggregated into quarters. For example, where budgets span more than one quarter, the total budget value is split proportionally into quarters. If a budget does not perfectly span quarters, but instead spans part-quarters, the number of days in that part-quarter are used to calculate the proportion of the value to be attributed to each quarter.

Budget data is particularly useful for a range of different stakeholders to analyse information on the projected inflows of external resources flowing into a recipient country, including:

For governments

- External finance complements national resources; therefore, information on projected inflows is essential for planning national budgets. Knowing how external finance is to be allocated and spent informs how Governments allocate their national resources.
- To be useful as an input, this information is needed prior to the start of a government's fiscal year, disaggregated by quarter, and for the upcoming 3 years.

For development partners

- Enables improved understanding of how fellow organisations are planning to allocate resources, and it should enable partners to better coordinate to reduce duplication, ensure that resources are being allocated in line with Government priorities, and provide necessary information to ensure that there is a match between a country's needs and the allocation of resources.

For civil society

- Enables understanding of what activities are planned for the upcoming year and how partners are expecting to spend resources. It enables civil society to monitor progress and ensure partners and governments are delivering as promised; better coordinate with other organisations; and identify potential funding opportunities.

How is spending calculated?

To assess spending, it is recommended to aggregate 'disbursement' and 'expenditure' transaction types together. In the IATI Standard, each transaction type is for different resource flows and defined as follows:

- [Disbursements](#) - Outgoing funds placed at the disposal of a recipient government or organisation, or funds transferred between two separately reported activities.
- [Expenditures](#) - Outgoing funds spent on goods and services for the activity.

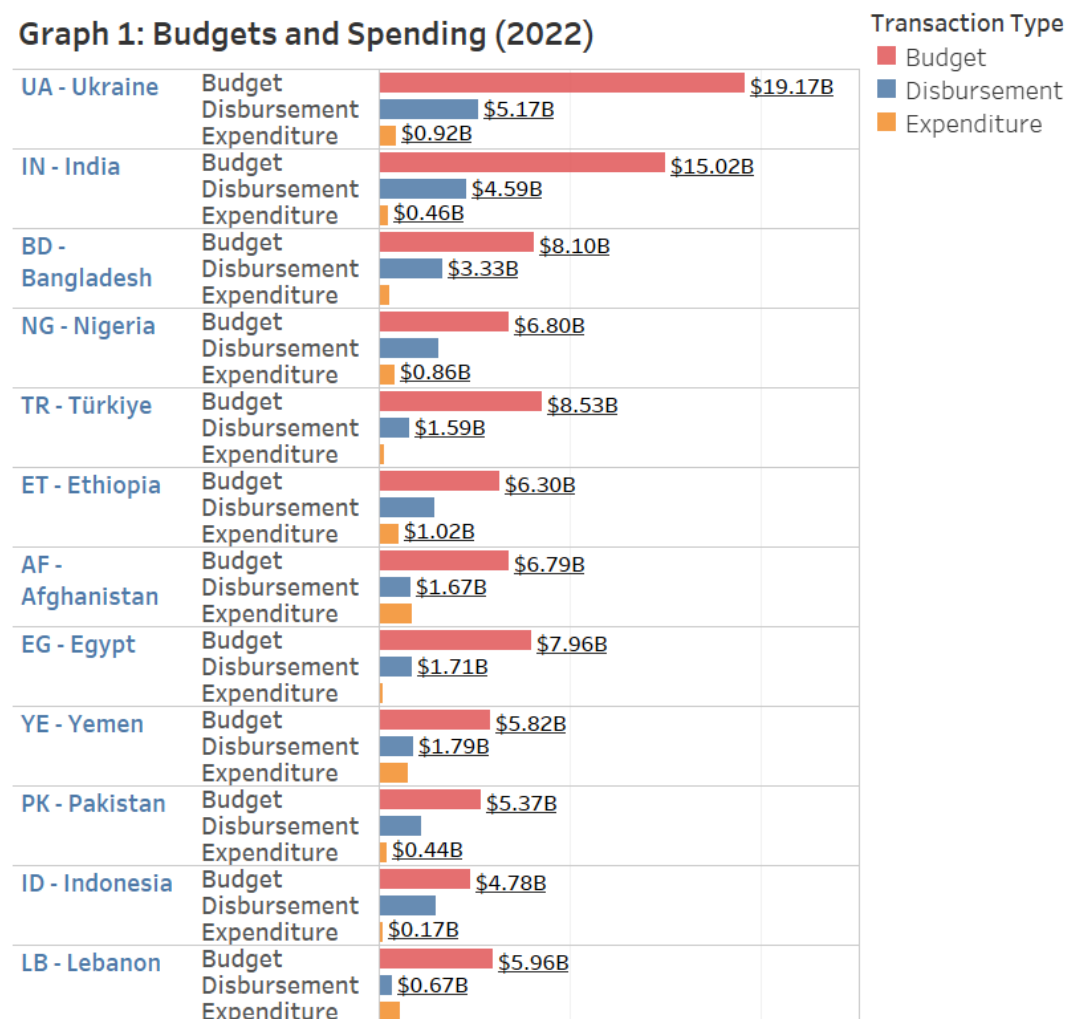
As both transaction types capture several types of resource flows, aggregating these for a particular reporting organisation (for example, the World Bank) should not result in double counting. However, double counting can occur if when the same resources are reported by multiple organisations – such as USAID reporting a disbursement to Save the Children and then Save the Children reporting the disbursement of expenditure of the resources received from USAID. For more information on how to extract and analyse spending data in CDFD, please see the example query provided in the [IATI Data Use Query Corner](#) which offers step-by-step guidance on how the various levels of spending data can be analysed.

Analysing budget data vs. spend data (Example: Ukraine)

With the IATI data available in CDFD, users can filter by budget and/or spending data (disbursements + expenditures) to comparatively assess the progress and trajectory of activities, and even alterations in the global development/humanitarian aid landscape. In this way, comparative analysis of budgets and spending data can provide critical information needed to monitor the implementation of activities, while also pinpointing data gaps and the timeliness of financial information being published by reporting organisations to IATI.

The graphs provided below are just a few different examples of how the budget and spending data can be analysed. For example, **Graph 1** (Budgets and Spending -2022) shows how Ukraine is projected to receive over USD \$19 billion, by far the most for a recipient country in 2022. Given the scale of the current humanitarian crisis in Ukraine, this result may be unsurprising; nevertheless, the data published to IATI provides evidence to help validate the assumption that the Russian invasion of Ukraine has reoriented the global funding landscape.

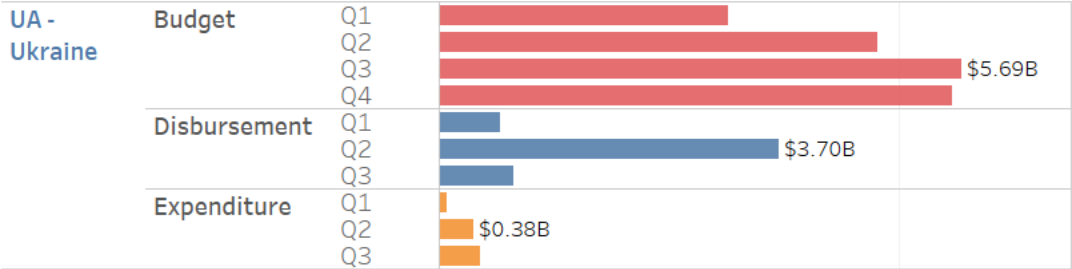
Graph 1: Budgets and Spending (2022)



*** Ranking by Recipient Country based on combined totals of budget and spend data. Spending data (disbursement + expenditure) as of 30 September 2022 (up to Quarter 3).

If we take the example of Ukraine further, **Graph 2 (Ukraine funding by quarter – 2022)** breaks down the budget and spend data (disbursements & expenditures) into quarters where budget levels for Ukraine nearly doubled from Q1 (USD \$3.14 billion) to Q3 (USD \$5.69 billion). **Data used for these graphs are from 30 September 2022.** While many organisations update their spending data on a monthly basis, others report on a quarterly basis, and therefore disbursement and expenditures levels for Ukraine are likely to be substantially higher when those reporting organisations update their spending data for Q3.

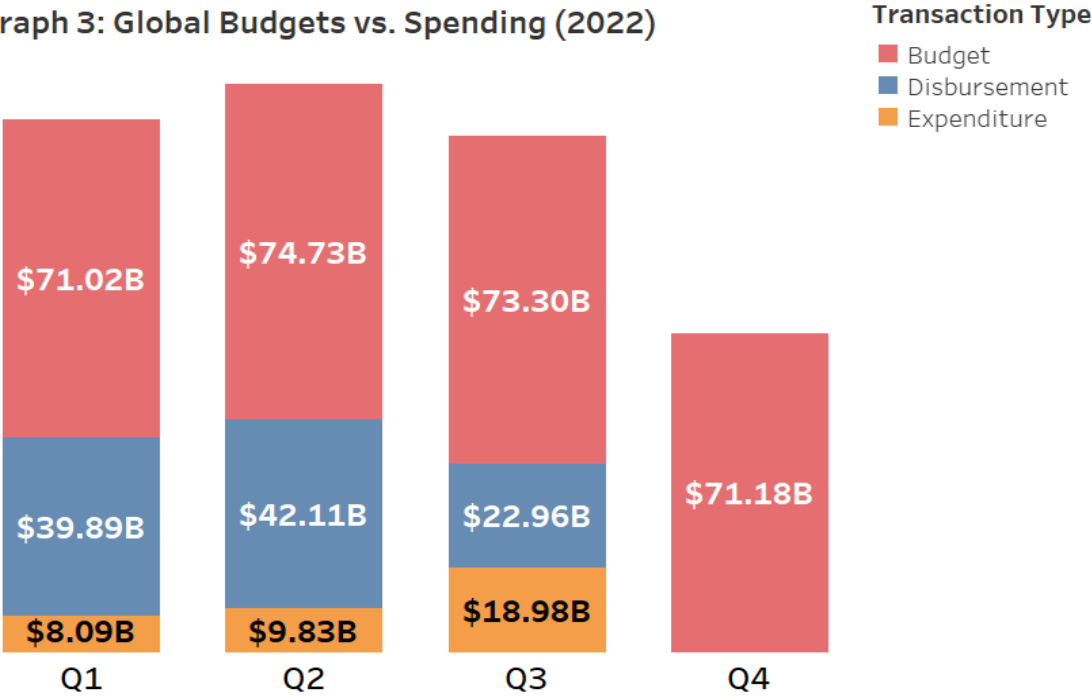
Graph 2: Ukraine Funding by Quarter (2022)



*** Spending data (disbursement + expenditure) as of 30 September 2022 (up to Quarter 3).

Visualising the budget data over quarters can be useful for stakeholders to analyse how projected inflows (budgets) of external resources are allocated, while the spending data (disbursements + expenditures) shows the actual resource amount that has been spent. Zooming out to look at the entire global landscape in **Graph 3 (Global Budgets vs. Spending -2022)**, it's clear that the resources spent in

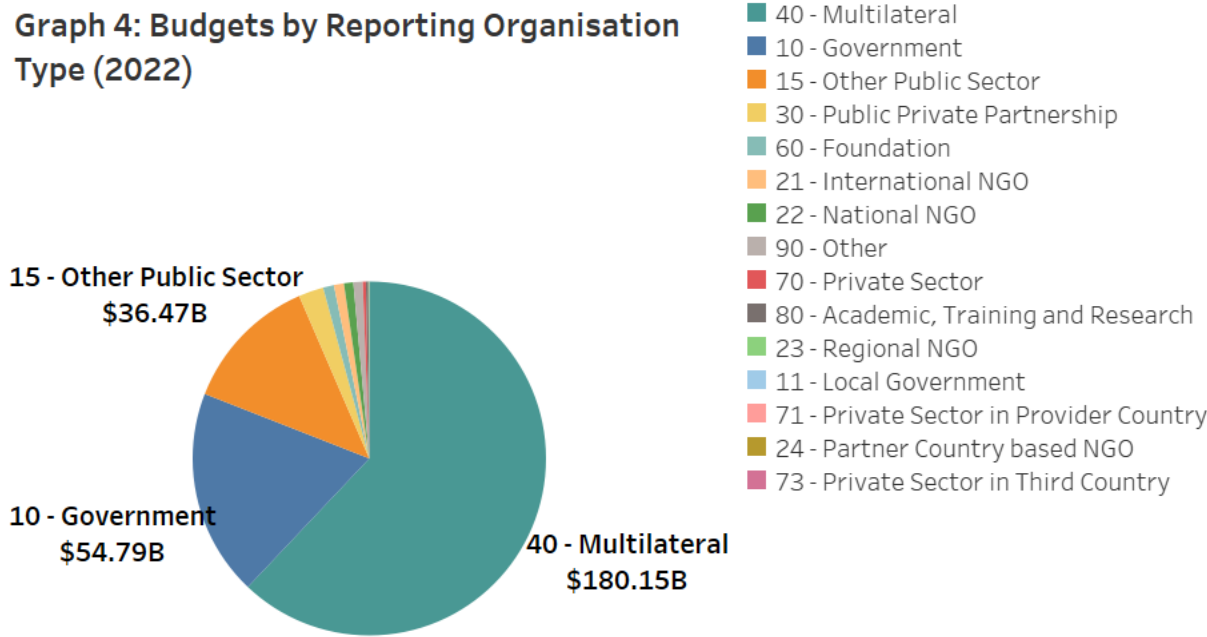
Graph 3: Global Budgets vs. Spending (2022)



*** Spending data (disbursement + expenditure) as of 30 September 2022 (up to Quarter 3).

Q1 and Q2 are higher than those spent in Q3, most likely because reporting organisations have only updated their spend data for the first half of the year. From **Graph 4 (Budgets by Reporting Organisation Type - 2022)**, we can see multilateral organisations and bilateral donors account for the largest portion of total budgets to date in 2022.

Graph 4: Budgets by Reporting Organisation Type (2022)

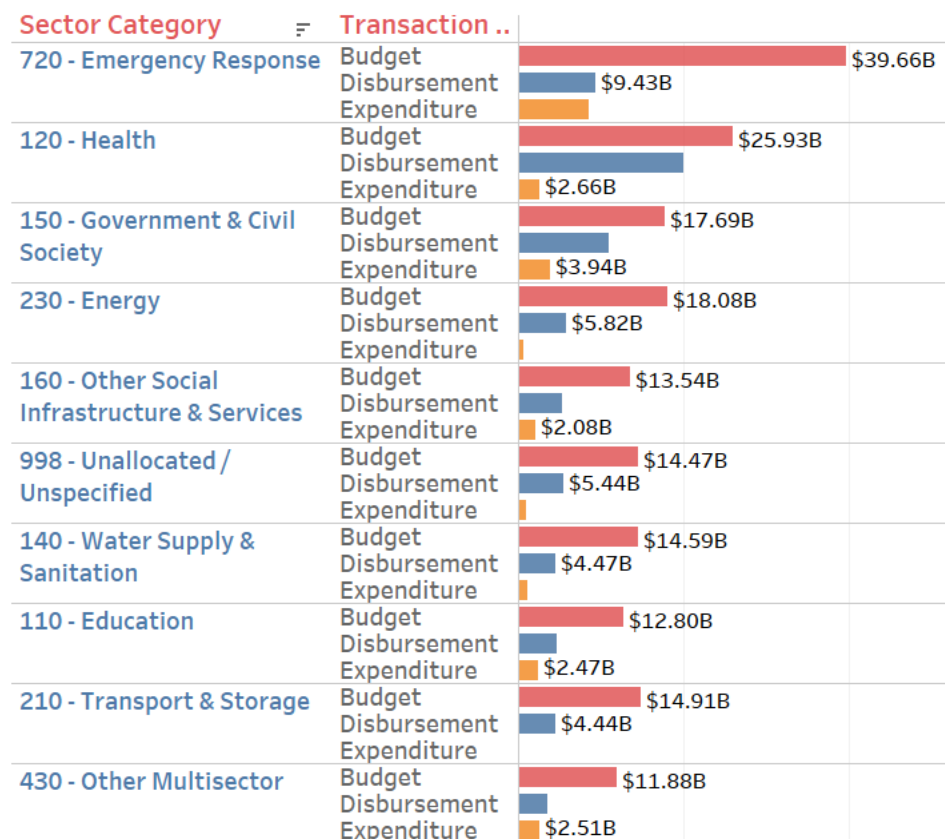


*** The pie chart is proportioned only by budget data (i.e. without spending data) for reporting organisation types (as of 30 September 2022).

IATI budget and spend data can also be used to analyse where resource flows are being channeled at the sector level. The sector category (e.g., 121 – Health, General) is based on the OECD (Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development) DAC 3-digit code list for sectors.¹ As **Graph 5 (Budgets and Spending by Sector – 2022)** illustrates below, the Emergency Response sector is projected to receive the largest portion of resources in 2022 with USD \$39.6 billion; the Health sector is the second largest, with a projected budget of USD \$25.9 billion. However, when looking at spending as of 30 September 2022, the Health Sector recorded the largest amount with a total of USD \$22.6 billion (disbursements + expenditures).

¹ For more information on the methodology behind sector categorisation in IATI; please refer to the [CDFD guidance](#) and [methodology](#). Please also refer to the from the [OECD.Stat website](#) for the lexicon of sector codelists.

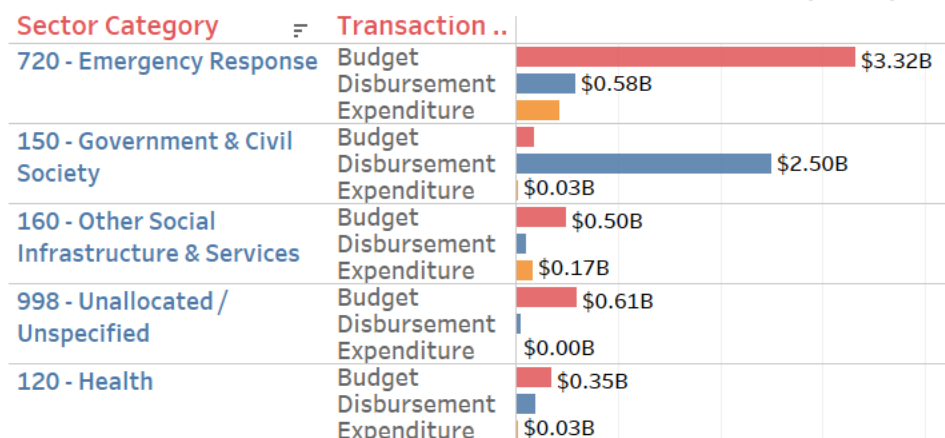
Graph 5: Budgets and Spending by Sector (2022)



*** Spending data (disbursement + expenditure) as of 30 September 2022 (up to Quarter 3).

Data users can also use IATI budget and spending data to examine sector resource allocation at the recipient country level. Bringing in Ukraine again as an example; **Graph 6 (Budgets and Spending in Ukraine by Sector – 2022) confirms** the Emergency Response sector is projected to receive the majority

Graph 6: Budgets and Spending in Ukraine by Sector (2022)



*** Spending data (disbursement + expenditure) as of 30 September 2022 (up to Quarter 3).

of budgeted resources in 2022; however, when looking at spending, the Government & Civil Society sector is recording the highest level of spending data so far in 2022, with USD \$2.53 billion (almost double the spending recorded for the Emergency Response in Ukraine).

Considerations

While there is already a great deal of budget data published to IATI, there is room for improvement. As of 30 September, only one third of IATI publishers are publishing budget data.

In addition, organisations publish their spending to IATI according to varying timelines (e.g. monthly, quarterly, annual) which means that the completeness of the data depends on when the data is retrieved. For example, if we look at the top publishers reporting the highest resource allocations globally for 2022 (**Graph 7 – Budgets and Spending by Reporting Organisation - 2022**), we can see that some publishing organisations are only reporting disbursements periodically (i.e. once every six months), while some are not reporting spending data at all --- both can limit the availability of timely data needed by stakeholders to enable real-time assessments of resource flows at the country, regional and global levels.

Graph 7: Budgets and Spending by Reporting Organisation (2022)

	2022 Q1	2022 Q2	2022 Q3	2022 Q4
The World Bank [.. Budget	\$12.03B	\$13.44B	\$15.28B	\$14.78B
Disbursement	\$8.81B	\$14.02B	\$3.22B	
Germany - Ministry for Eco.. Budget	\$1.68B	\$1.53B	\$7.12B	\$3.45B
Disbursement	\$1.90B	\$1.92B	\$3.50B	
Expenditure	\$0.92B	\$0.70B	\$14.05B	
European Invest.. Budget	\$8.62B	\$8.62B	\$8.62B	\$8.62B
Disbursement			\$0.87B	
Asian Developm.. Budget	\$7.26B	\$4.56B	\$4.44B	\$5.76B
Disbursement	\$3.68B	\$2.62B		
United Nations .. Budget	\$4.96B	\$4.96B	\$4.96B	\$4.96B
Expenditure	\$2.13B	\$2.97B	\$1.96B	
United Nations Children's Fund (.. Budget	\$4.28B	\$4.28B	\$4.28B	\$4.28B
Disbursement			\$2.87B	
Expenditure	\$1.48B	\$1.75B	\$0.57B	
United States Ag.. Budget	\$0.00B	\$0.00B	\$0.00B	\$0.00B
Disbursement	\$6.63B	\$9.63B	\$2.28B	
European Bank f.. Budget	\$3.34B	\$3.34B	\$3.34B	\$3.34B
Disbursement	\$0.37B	\$0.47B	\$0.17B	
UK - Foreign, Commonwealth .. Budget	\$2.35B	\$3.52B	\$1.60B	\$2.66B
Disbursement	\$1.17B	\$1.66B	\$0.31B	
Expenditure	\$0.12B	\$0.02B	(\$0.01B)	
Gavi, the vaccine.. Budget	\$1.26B	\$1.26B	\$1.26B	\$1.26B
Disbursement	\$4.52B	\$1.05B	\$1.41B	

*** Spending data (disbursement + expenditure) as of 30 September 2022 (up to Quarter 3).

Data availability is dependent on the timeliness and completeness of the data published to IATI. Publishers such as development partners, including governments, multilateral organisations, and CSOs are encouraged to continually work to improve the completeness, consistency, and quality of their data, to ensure data users have the most complete picture available to them.

How can users analyse budget and spending data in IATI?

(NEW) CDFD instructional videos (available in English, French, Spanish and Portuguese):

- Part 1: [CDFD How to access IATI data](#)
- Part 2: [CDFD How to analyse IATI data](#)

Connect with fellow data users

- Connect with fellow data users on [Data Use Community of Practice](#) on IATI Connect, IATI's digital community platform.
- Check out the updated [Data Use Query Corner](#) on IATI Connect; this space is a one stop location where data users can learn to solve queries with IATI data, and ask the Community their questions and discover the latest opportunities to engage with one another
- Reach out directly to the IATI Secretariat at support@iatistandard.org for additional support in accessing, understanding or analysing IATI data.